

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1909.

BY

SAMUEL BIGGART, M.D., C.M.,

WEST HARTLEPOOL :

ALMA PRESS, LIMITED, PARK ROAD.

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

April 15th, 1909, to March 17th, 1910.

Chairman T. W. WATSON.

West Hartlepool Representatives :

T. CLARKSON, Westbourne Road, West Hartlepool.
J. SUGGITT, Lower Archer Street, West Hartlepool.
J. BROWN, Grange Road, West Hartlepool.
W. J. COATES, Lynn Street, West Hartlepool.
W. PATERSON, Brougham Terrace, West Hartlepool.
T. LIDDLE, Lansdowne Road, West Hartlepool.
H. LAMB, Clifton Avenue, West Hartlepool.
J. R. FRYER, Grange Road, West Hartlepool.
R. H. CHARLTON, Seaton Carew.

Hartlepool Representatives :

J. HORSLEY, Sedgewick House, Hartlepool.
J. HUNTER, High Street, Hartlepool.
J. R. BUTTERWICK, "Kirkham," Hartlepool.
W. PEARSON, "The Lawns," Hartlepool.
T. W. WATSON, Gladstone Street, Hartlepool.
C. T. WATSON, Roslyn House, Hartlepool.

FIXED DAYS OF MEETING.

AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

May 20th, ... 1909	September 16th, 1909	January 20th, 1910
June 17th, ,,	October 21st, ,,	February 17th, ,,
July 15th, ,,	November 18th, ,,	March 17th, ,,
August 19th, ,,	December 16th, ,,	April 21st, ,,

EACH DAY AT 3-15 P.M.

General Purposes Committee.

All the Members of the Authority are Members of this Committee.

Officers.

Clerk—C. J. BUNTING, Solicitor, 28, Church Street, West Hartlepool.
Medical Officer—S. BIGGART, M.D., 116, Scarbro' Street, West Hartlepool.
Surveyor—J. W. BROWN, Church Square, West Hartlepool.
Inspector—O. P. MITCHELL, 24, Town Wall, Hartlepool.
Assistant Inspector—R. CARTER, Pilot Master, Hartlepool.

ANNUAL REPORT.

WEST HARTLEPOOL,

February, 1910.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hartlepool
Port Sanitary Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with the the requirements of the Local Government Board and the Durham County Council, I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1909, comprising the work done at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and also showing the work performed and the measures adopted for the prevention of the importation of infectious diseases.

I.—HOSPITAL.

During the year ending December 31st, 1909, 107 patients were admitted into the Hospital as compared with 31 in 1908, 50 in 1907, 80 in 1906, 117 in 1905, 97 in 1904, 185 in 1903, 105 in 1902, 39 in 1901, and 46 in 1900.

Of the 107 cases, there were :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	95 cases
Diphtheria	...	...	7 „
Typhoid	...	...	2 „
Asiatic Cholera	...	...	1 case
Beri-Beri	...	...	1 „
Measles	...	...	1 „

Of these 107 cases, there came from—

West Hartlepool	97 patients
Hartlepool	8 „
Vessels	2 „

The average age of patients was 9·7 years as compared with 12·2 years in 1908. The death rate was 3·7 per 100 as compared with 9·6 per 100 in 1908, and 6 per 100 in 1907.

Small Pox. It is satisfactory to note that we have had no case of this disease since 1906, when a seaman was admitted into the Hospital suffering from the disease.

Hospital Accommodation. The Hospital is in good working order, repairs which were necessary having been effected. Its accommodation is sufficient for the present requirements of the district.

II.—SHIPPING.

During the year 1909, two cases of Infectious Disease were imported by vessels arriving at this port.

Beri-Beri. S.S. “NETHERTON.”

On June 9th, I inspected, on arrival, the S.S. “Netherton,” with a crew of 50 hands all told from Singapore, and enquired into the cause of death of two of the crew who had died during the voyage. The probable causes of death were Heat Appoplexy and Beri-Beri respectively. I also examined one of the crew, a Chinaman, and found him to be suffering from Beri-Beri. This man was removed to the Hospital,

and later sent to London. The necessary disinfection of the vessel was carried out to my satisfaction.

Cholera. S.S. "SILKEBORG."

On September 20th I inspected on arrival in the Bay, the s.s. "Silkeborg" with a crew of 20 hands all told, from Narva, and examined a fireman suffering from symptoms of Cholera. The man was immediately removed to the Hospital where he died within 48 hours of his arrival. The cause of death was ascertained, by bacteriological examination of portions of the viscera etc. at Newcastle, to be from Asiatic Cholera. The body was interred in the Hartlepool Cemetery. The vessel was kept in the Bay for two days during which time berths, W.Cs., bilges, and fresh water tanks were thoroughly disinfected. Owing to stress of weather and want of fresh water, the Master brought the vessel into port on the 22nd inst., when I formally declared the ship to be infected with Cholera. The vessel proceeded to the Jackson Dock Buoys for a further period of isolation of two days. The vessel then went to her discharging berth, where, during the discharge of the cargo, she was visited daily by either your Inspector or myself. No further case of Cholera occurred on board the ship during her stay in port. She left here with a cargo of coal for Copenhagen.

Origin of the Case. The origin of the case remains obscure. According to the Master's statement the man had not been ashore at the port of departure. The drinking water in use was not from a Russian

port but from Copenhagen. No other person on the ship had been sick, either in the port of departure or during the voyage.

In accordance with the Cholera Regulations the case was fully reported to the Local Government Board.

The number of vessels visited by me during the year was 151 and there were 11 re-visits, as compared with 126 visits and 7 re-visits in 1908.

The causes of inspection may be tabulated as follows :—

33 vessels reported by your Inspector or by H.M. Customs Officers as having sickness on board either on arrival or during the time of discharging cargoes, or as having had sickness or death during the voyage.

111 vessels from infected or suspected ports for crew examination.

2 vessels having stowaways on board.

5 vessels having sanitary defects.

11 re-visits.

162

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF CHOLERA AND PLAGUE.

On September 2nd, 1909, the Local Government Board issued a circular letter to Port Sanitary Authorities stating that Cholera, which was epidemic in Northern Russia, particularly in the St. Petersburg district and at Archangel, Cronstadt, Riga, and other Baltic ports had extended to Holland, several cases and deaths having occurred at Rotterdam and vicinity. The Board advised the Authorities of British ports trading with Rotterdam or North Russian ports to be on their guard against the importation of Cholera into their districts by vessels coming from places where Cholera has appeared or may come to appear. Medical

officers of such British ports should endeavour to keep themselves informed of the spread of the present outbreak.

Since the issue of this letter cases and deaths have occurred in Belgium. During the year isolated cases of Asiatic Cholera have appeared in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and England, all of which have been imported from Russia. The number of vessels arriving at this port from St. Petersburg and other Northern Russian ports is considerable and increasing. All vessels arriving here from Cholera infected ports are boarded, either by night or day, shortly after arrival, and their crews are medically inspected before being allowed to proceed to their berths.

The following vessels from Russian and other ports were visited upon arrival, by the Medical Officer, who examined the crews.

DATE.		NAME OF VESSEL.	FROM
1909.			
May	29	S. Groveland	St. Petersburg
June	4	S. Minnie	do,
"	7	S. Mongolia	do.
"	9	S. Netherton	Singapore
"	18	S. Tyr	St. Petersburg
"	18	S. Dalarne	do.
"	19	S. Grovehill	do.
"	23	S. Claro	do.
"	26	S. Pelham	do.
July	3	S. Groveland	do.
"	3	S. Pine Branch	do.
"	7	S. Marie	do.
"	9	S. Mongolia	do.
"	23	S. Asiatic	do.
"	26	S. Marie Therese	do.
"	29	S. Nordpol	Riga
"	30	S. Grovehill	St. Petersburg

DATE.	NAME OF VESSEL.	FROM
1909.		
August 2	S. Phyllis	St. Petersburg
" 4	S. Sphind	Riga
" 9	S. Teutonic	St. Petersburg
" 11	S. Frisia	do.
" 14	S. Sara	do.
" 15	S. Annie	do.
" 15	S. Alicia	do.
" 16	S. Groveland	do.
" 18	S. Allie	do.
" 19	S. Mediana	do.
" 19	S. Waterville	do.
" 20	S. Jens Bang	Riga
" 20	S. Bothnia	Cronstadt
" 22	S. Arthur	St. Petersburg
" 22	S. Haddon Hall	Riga
" 24	S. Grovehill	St. Petersburg
" 24	S. August Leffler	do.
" 24	S. Normannia	do.
" 25	S. Grovehurst	Archangel
" 26	S. Dordrecht	St. Petersburg
" 28	S. Novorossia	do.
" 28	S. Sphinx	do.
" 29	S. Dagmar	do.
" 31	S. Wellbury	do.
September 1	S. Malcolm	do.
" 2	S. Ezardian	Rotterdam
" 3	S. Minnie	St. Petersburg
" 3	S. Ootmarsum	Rotterdam
" 3	S. Mercia	St. Petersburg
" 4	S. Tycho	do.
" 4	S. Skogstad	do.
" 6	S. Antonio	Rotterdam
" 7	S. Dora	Archangel
" 9	S. Fiducia	Zaandam
" 10	S. Dagmar	St. Petersburg
" 10	S. Marguerite	Riga
" 12	S. Livornia	St. Petersburg
" 12	S. Eleanora Mail	do.
" 14	S. Eastonia	do.
" 14	S. Bifrost	do.
" 14	S. Britsum	Rotterdam
" 14	S. Agnes	St. Petersburg
" 14	S. Scandinavien	do.
" 14	S. Vigo	do.
" 14	S. Loppersum	Rotterdam
" 15	S. Somerford	St. Petersburg
" 15	S. Waterville	do.
" 17	S. St. Patrick	do.
" 18	S. Robert Eggleton	Rotterdam
" 20	S. Farmsum	do.
" 21	S. Anna Doretta Boog	Riga

DATE	NAME OF VESSEL.	FROM
1909		
September 22	S. August Leffler	St. Petersburg
" 22	S. Buckminster	do.
" 23	S. Hansa	Rotterdam
" 24	S. Mongolia	St. Petersburg
" 24	S. Kathe	Riga
" 25	S. Irmgard Linneman	St. Petersburg
" 25	S. Alderney	Wyborg
" 25	S. Severini	St. Petersburg
" 26	S. Bothnia	do.
" 28	S. Gustaf Adolf	do.
October 2	S. Ambassador	do.
" 7	S. Sphinx	do.
" 8	S. Osmos	do.
" 9	S. Mediana	do.
" 10	S. Axinite	Archangel
" 10	S. Pernau	Luga Bay
" 13	S. Marguerite	Riga
" 16	S. Skogstad	St. Petersburg
" 21	S. Scandinavien	do.
" 22	S. Velikorossia	do.
" 24	S. August Leffler	do.
" 24	S. Hadrian	do.
" 28	S. Farnham	do.
" 29	S. Denebola	Riga
" 29	S. Ulla Boog	do.
" 29	S. Kathe	do.
" 29	S. Sophia	do.
" 30	S. Daphne	Archangel
" 30	S. Svend II	St. Petersburg
" 30	S. Heros	do.
" 30	S. Inverness	do.
" 30	S. Gustaf Adolf	do.
" 30	S. Dalarne	Narva
" 31	S. Severini	St. Petersburg
" 31	S. Stegelborg	do.
November 16	S. Kalomo	Singapore
" 18	S. Hermann Menzell	Riga
" 20	S. Gaute	St. Petersburg
" 29	S. Uppland	Narva
December 1	S. Dalarne	St. Petersburg
" 3	S. Novorossia	do.
" 7	S. Grovehurst	Riga
" 21	S. Grovehill	do.

INSPECTION OF FOOD IMPORTED INTO THE PORT.

During the year Dr. Handcock, Local Government Board Food Inspector, paid a visit to this port to enquire into the working of the Unsound Food Regulations, also as to the importation, preparation, storage and distribution of imported food at this Port. He expressed himself as satisfied with the method of inspection carried out here except that he thought that the inspection of fruit from Hamburg hitherto conducted by the West Hartlepool Sanitary Authority, should be undertaken by the Port Sanitary Authority. This recommendation has been approved of by the Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority, and in future the inspection of Fish at the Fish Quay, is to be left to the ~~West~~ Hartlepool Sanitary Inspector, whilst all other imported foods will be dealt with by the Port Sanitary Inspector and myself.

There has been no importation up to the present of Frozen Meat. The Foodstuffs mainly dealt with were:—Eggs, Sugar, Fruit, Potatoes, and Tinned Goods.

Eighteen bags of bilged sugar, weighing approximately 2 tons, were seized and destroyed as being unfit for the food of man. The sugar was destroyed, under the supervision of the Inspector, at the West Hartlepool Refuse Destructor.

Port Sanitary Inspectors' Report of Vessels inspected during the year :

From 1st January to 31st December, 1909 :—

British Steamships ...	...	...	588
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	163
Foreign Steamships...	...	...	764
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	149
			<hr/> 1,664

(As compared with 1,726 last year.)

Re-visits made to Vessels for Fumigating, to see Regulations carried out where Notices had been served, to Passenger Steamers, to Vessels from Infected Ports	...	278
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Total number of Inspections	<hr/> 1,942 <hr/>
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(As compared with 2,050 last year)

The Nationalities of these Vessels were as follows :—

British Steamships ...	...	...	588
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	163
Swedish Steamships	...	...	228
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	83
Norwegian Steamships	...	...	166
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	27
Danish Steamships ...	...	...	137
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	9
German Steamships...	...	...	115
Russian Steamships...	...	...	23
„ Sailing Ships	...	...	31
Dutch Steamships ...	...	...	52
„ Sailing Ship ...	...	...	1
Spanish Steamships...	...	...	25
French Steamships ...	...	...	10
Greek Steamships ...	...	...	3
Belgian Steamships...	...	...	2
Austrian Steamship	...	...	1
			<hr/> 1,664 <hr/>

The following Table shows the number of Vessels of each nationality inspected and the percentage having Sanitary defects.

			Inspected	Insanitary	Percentage
Austrian	...	...	1	0	0·0
Belgian	...	...	2	0	0·0
Danish	...	...	146	7	4·7
Dutch...	...	...	53	7	13·2
French	...	...	10	2	20·0
German	...	...	115	7	6·0
Greek...	...	...	3	2	66·6
Norwegian	...	...	193	21	10·8
Russian	...	...	54	9	16·6
Spanish	...	...	25	12	48·0
Swedish	...	...	311	16	5·1
Total Foreigners	...		913	83	9·0
British	...	...	751	74	9·8

The following nuisances and other defects were found and dealt with :—

Dirty Forecastsles and Deckhouses	...	...	78
Defective Stoves	...	...	7
Defective Port Lights	...	...	37
Defective W.Cs.	...	...	11
Defective Ventilation	...	...	32
Defective drainage of Forecastsles	...	...	14
Defective Deck Lights	...	...	5
Defective Chain-pipe Casing	...	...	2
Defective Floors in Forecastsles	...	...	3
Defective Bulkhead between W.C. and Crew Space	...	...	3
Deck Leaking	...	...	16
Verminous Forecastsles	...	...	3
Foul Bilges	...	...	5
Leaky Hawse Pipe...	...	...	2
Rotten Water Casks in use	...	...	2
Dirty Bedding	...	...	8
Foul W.Cs.	...	...	7
Broken Skylights	...	...	2
Insufficient Light in Forecastle	...	...	2
Forecastle without stove	...	...	3
Paints stored in crew space	...	...	1

With the exception of two cases all the requirements are known to have been carried out ; the exceptions being where the work was promised

to be done abroad. It may be pointed out that one notice may cover more than one defect or nuisance.

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Monthly Reports.

Date of Report. 1909.	Description of Vessels.		Nationality		Trade Engaged in.		Total Vessels Examined	Sanitary Conditions		Written Notices Served	Verbal Notices	Total Written and Verbal Notices
	Steam	Sail	British	Foreign	Coast	Foreign		Good	Bad			
January 20th ...	71	14	58	27	41	44	85	78	7	0	7	7
February 18th ...	74	11	62	23	47	38	85	78	7	0	7	7
March 17th ...	72	18	57	33	43	47	90	83	7	0	7	7
April 14th ...	82	27	73	36	50	59	109	97	12	0	12	12
May 19th ...	139	39	68	110	60	118	178	161	17	1	16	17
June 16th ...	116	31	60	87	36	111	147	132	15	1	14	15
July 14th ...	117	45	49	113	20	142	162	147	15	2	13	15
August 19th ...	174	25	61	138	31	168	199	181	18	0	18	18
September 15th ...	123	22	49	96	17	128	145	131	14	0	14	14
October 20th ...	139	24	65	98	33	130	163	149	14	0	14	14
November 18th ...	105	23	59	69	26	102	128	116	12	0	12	12
December 31st ...	140	33	90	83	57	116	173	154	19	0	19	19
Total ...	1,352	312	751	913	461	1,203	1,664	1,507	157	4	153	157

The Trade of the Ships Inspected.

	Number Inspected	Number Reported to be Defective	Number of Orders Issued.
Engaged in Foreign Trade:			
Steamers	1,037	122	122
Sailing	151	7	7
Fishing	15	0	0
	1,203	129	129
Engaged in Coasting Trade:			
Steamers	298	18	18
Sailing	161	9	9
Fishing	2	1	1
	461	28	28

In conclusion I beg to express my thanks to Mr. Eddy, the Collector of H.M. Customs, and his various officials (especially those of the Waterguard, with whom we have been so intimately associated) to Pilots and to the respective Dock Masters for the kind courtesy and assistance which they have invariably extended to the Officers of your Authority.

My thanks are also due to the Masters and Owners of Shipping for their aid and co-operation in enabling me to carry out the various duties devolving upon the administration of the Port Sanitary Authority. I also wish to state that the Authority's Inspectors have carried out their duties during the past year in a highly satisfactory manner.

S. BIGGART, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health to the Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.